

2 (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said collating unit includes a memory storing the feature amount of the word, and releases the memory when a collation of the feature amount of the word is completed.

3. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an inputting unit inputting an image as the recognition target; and

an extracting unit performing a one-dimensional graduating conversion in a direction perpendicular to a connecting direction of characters for a direction code histogram of a contour line in each of a plurality of small areas in an inputted image and extracting a direction code histogram series obtained from a conversion result as the feature amount of the recognition target.

4. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said extracting unit divides a length of the inputted image in the direction perpendicular to the connection direction of characters by a predetermined integer and divides the image into the small areas with an obtained quotient as a size of each of the small areas.

5. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said generating unit generates the feature amount of the word by using feature amounts of a plurality of characters.

6. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said generating unit generates a new direction code histogram series by arranging a plurality of direction code histogram series corresponding to the feature amounts of characters composing the word and designating a generated direction code histogram series as the feature amount of the word.

7. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said collating unit performs a non-linear matching of the feature amount of the word

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and the feature amount of the recognition target, and calculates a degree of similarity between the feature amount of the word and the feature amount of the recognition target.

8. (As Once AMENDED) The word recognizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said listing unit stores a list which has a high possibility of containing a word corresponding to the recognition target.

9. (As Once AMENDED) A word recognizing apparatus, comprising:
a generating unit dynamically generating a feature amount of a recognition candidate word using feature amounts of characters during a recognition process; and
a collating unit collating the generated feature amount of the word with a feature amount of a recognition target, and outputting a recognition result.

21 10. (As Once AMENDED) A recognizing apparatus, comprising:
a generating unit dynamically generating a feature amount of a recognition candidate pattern string using feature amounts of patterns during a recognition process; and
a collating unit collating the generated feature amount of the pattern string with a feature amount of recognition target, and outputting a recognition result.

11. (As Once AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising:
dynamically generating a feature amount of a recognition candidate word using feature amounts of characters during a recognition process; and
collating the generated feature amount of the word with a feature amount of a recognition target.

12. (As Once AMENDED) A computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program causing a computer to execute a process, said process comprising: